

No. 333, S.]

[Published April 28, 1899.]

CHAPTER 258.

AN ACT to amend certain sections of the statutes of 1898, relating to the public lands, and the land office, and placing the same under the supervision of the secretary of state.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 186 of the statutes of 1898, is hereby amended, by striking out the words "chief clerk of the land office" in the 9th and 10th lines, and inserting in place thereof the words "secretary of state"; and by striking out the words "and the official seal of said office," in the tenth line, and inserting in place thereof the words "and the seal of the land office heretofore adopted by the commissioners and used in the land office;" and by adding at the end of said section the following: "The secretary of state shall have the custody of all such records, plats, field-notes and papers, and supervision of the office of the commissioners. So that said section 186, when so amended, shall read as follows: section 186. Said commissioners shall keep their office at the capitol. They shall conveniently arrange and preserve therein all records, books, reports, surveys, maps, field-notes, plats and other papers pertaining to the public lands heretofore, now or hereafter owned by the state, including all such as have been or shall be received from the United States or any officer thereof. They may perfect such records, books, reports, surveys, maps, field-notes, plats and other papers, when incomplete, and cause fair copies thereof to be made when from injury, loss, use or accident it shall become necessary; and any such copy when certified by the secretary of state under his hand and the seal

Duties of
commissioners
of public
lands.

Secretary of state to have supervision of office.

Clerks to be employed and oath of office of same.

of the land office heretofore adopted by the commissioners and used in the land office, to have been made for any of the causes herein specified, and to be a correct copy thereof; shall have the same force and effect in all courts and places as the original; and any copy from said original records, books, reports, surveys, maps, field-notes, plats and other papers, or from any record or paper required by law to be kept in their office, or any copy from said certified copy thereof, when certified by the secretary of state under the great or lesser seal, shall be received in evidence with the same effect as the original. All records, books, and files kept by the commissioners shall at all business hours be open, under proper regulations made by them, to the inspection of any person free of charge. The secretary of state shall have the custody of all such records, plats, field-notes and papers, and supervision of the office of the commissioners."

SECTION 2. Section 187 of said statutes is hereby amended by striking out the words "a chief clerk and an assistant chief clerk, who shall during the absence of the chief clerk have all the authority given by law to the chief clerk; also a bookkeeper, three clerks and a clerk and stenographer" in the first, second, third and fourth lines and inserting in place thereof the words "two clerks who shall be known as clerks of the land commissioners, and a stenographer;" so that said section, when so amended, shall read as follows: "section 187. The commissioners shall appoint two clerks who shall be known as clerks of the land commissioners, and a stenographer. Such appointments shall be filed in the office of secretary of state. Every such clerk shall, before entering upon the discharge of his duties, take and subscribe the following oath, to-wit: I do solemnly swear (or affirm as the case may be) that I will support the constitution of the state of Wisconsin; that I will not be engaged, either directly or indirectly, in the purchase for my own benefit of any public lands of the state of Wisconsin, so long as I remain a clerk in the land bureau

thereof; and that I will faithfully discharge to the best of my ability, the duties of clerk in said bureau, so help me God; which oath shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state."

SECTION 3. Section 189 of said statutes is hereby amended by striking out the words "their chief clerk" in the third line, and inserting in place thereof the words "the clerks of the land commissioners," so that said section, when so amended, shall read as follows: "section 189. The said commissioners shall collect as fees fifty cents on every certificate and fifty cents on every patent, issued by them, to be paid by the purchaser. The clerks of the land commissioners may take their acknowledgment to all certificates and patents, and no fee shall be charged therefor."

Clerks may take acknowledgments.

SECTION 4. Section 212 of said statutes is hereby amended by striking out the words "the chief clerk" in the last line, and inserting in place thereof the words "one of the clerks of the land commissioners."

SECTION 5. Section 170 of said statutes is hereby amended by adding after the words "nine hundred dollars" in the next to the last line on page 259 the words "two clerks of the land commissioners, twelve hundred dollars each, and the stenographer of the land office, nine hundred dollars." Said section is further amended by striking out of said section, on page 262, lines sixteen to twenty-three inclusive, relating to the salaries of clerks and employes in the land office.

Salaries of clerks.

SECTION 6. Section 1636b of said statutes is hereby amended by striking out the words "The chief clerk of the state land office shall be the forest warden and may appoint a clerk in such office as his deputy. It shall be their duty" and by inserting in place thereof the words "the secretary of state shall designate one of the clerks of the land commissioners to be the state forest warden. It shall be his duty" so that said section, when so amended, shall read as follows: "section 1636b. The secretary of state shall designate one of the clerks of the land commissioners to be the state

Secretary of state to designate a forest warden. Duty of same.

forest warden. It shall be his duty to see that the provisions of law for the prevention and extinguishment of forest fires are faithfully executed, and for that purpose to formulate all proper and necessary rules and regulations for the government of the several fire wardens and to supervise them in the performance of their duties. Whenever the forest warden or any fire warden shall have good reason to believe that an offense has been committed by any person or persons against any of such provisions it shall be his duty to immediately notify the district attorney of the proper county of the facts upon which such belief is founded, and he shall immediately and thoroughly investigate the facts. If after such investigation, he shall have good reason to believe that an offense has been committed, it shall be his duty forthwith to institute proper proceedings for the arrest and conviction of the person whom he believes guilty of having committed the same."

Inconsistent laws repealed.

SECTION 7. All acts or parts of acts conflicting with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed and all provisions of the statutes of 1898, prescribing duties or in any way relating to the chief clerk of the land office shall apply to the land commissioners' clerks herein provided for, except that the duties of forest warden shall devolve upon the clerk who shall be designated by the secretary of state as such.

Provisions, when to go into effect. Force of land office until then.

SECTION 8. The foregoing provisions shall not go into effect until after January first, 1901, but shall become operative and be put into force and carried out on and after that date. From and after the passage and publication of this act until January first, 1901, the land office force shall consist of the following, and no others; a chief clerk and an assistant chief clerk who shall during the absence of the chief clerk have all the authority given by law to the chief clerk; also a bookkeeper and one other clerk. Such appointments shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state. Every such clerk shall before entering upon the discharge of his duties, take and sub-

scribe the following oath, to-wit: I do solemnly swear, or affirm (as the case may be), that I will support the constitution of the state of Wisconsin; that I will not be engaged, either directly or indirectly, in the purchase for my own benefit of any public lands of the state of Wisconsin so long as I remain a clerk in the land bureau thereof; and that I will faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of clerk in said bureau, so help me God; which oath shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state. Such clerks and bookkeepers to receive the same salary as is now provided by law.

SECTION 9. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 26, 1899.

No. 159, S.]

[Published April 28, 1899.

CHAPTER 259.

AN ACT making an annual appropriation to the Wisconsin Cheesemakers' Association.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. There is hereby annually appropriated to the Wisconsin Cheesemakers' Association out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of four hundred dollars.

Appropriating \$400 annually.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 26, 1899.